

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04699 060752Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
IO-14 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 FRB-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 EPG-02 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 XMB-04
/158 W

-----066130 060806Z /21

R 060715Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 791

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 4699

STATE FOR EB/IFD/BP

USOECN

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN IMPORT RESTRICTIONS: TARIFF QUOTAS INTRO-
DUCED ON IMPORTS OF CHILDREN'S KNITTED SUITS

REF: A. CANBERRA 1155, B. CANBERRA 3357

1. THE ACTING MINISTERS FOR INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE AND
BUSINESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS HAVE ANNOUNCED THE IMPOSITION
OF TARIFF QUOTAS ON IMPORTS OF CHILDREN'S KNITTED TRACKSUITS,
ROMPERSUITS AND SIMILAR GARMENTS. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWED
GOA CONSIDERATION OF AN INDUSTRIES ASSISTANCE COMMISSION (IAC)
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REPORT WHICH WAS REQUESTED BY GOA FOLLOWING IAC REPORT EARLIER
THIS YEAR ON CONTINUATION OF TARIFF QUOTAS ON CLOTHING (SEE
REF A).

2. EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 1977, TARIFF QUOTAS ON TRACKSUITS,
PLAYSUITS, ROMPERSUITS ETC. WOULD BE AT AN ANNUAL LEVEL
OF 5.1 MILLION GARMENTS, WITH AN ADDITIONAL DUTY OF \$12 PER

KILOGRAM ON IMPORTS IN EXCESS OF QUOTA. A SINGLE QUOTA ALLOCATION WOULD BE MADE TO IMPORTERS TO COVER THE PERIOD MAY 1, 1977 THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 1978. TO BRING THIS INTO LINE WITH THE QUOTA EXPIRY DATA ON OTHER CLOTHING ITEMS, AN ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION WOULD BE MADE FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 1, 1978 TO AUGUST 31, 1978, AT THE SAME ANNUAL LEVEL. (QUOTA PERIOD ON ALL TEXTILE, APPAREL AND FOOTWEAR ITEMS WAS RECENTLY EXTENDED FROM FEBRUARY 28, 1978 TO AUGUST 31, 1978, SEE REF B).

3. IAC HAD RECOMMENDED THAT TARIFF QUOTAS NOT BE APPLIED TO IMPORTS OF "ATHLETIC TYPE" TRACKSUITS. HOWEVER, GOA DISREGARDED THIS ADVICE "PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF THE GROWING USE FOR CASUAL WEAR OF GARMENTS WHICH ARE DESCRIBED AS TRACKSUITS, AND THE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES IN DISTINGUISHING ATHLETIC TRACKSUITS FROM THESE CASUAL GARMENTS FOR TARIFF PURPOSES".

4. COMMENT: THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ECONOMIC MINISTERS FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) IN WHICH THEY EXPRESSED "THEIR GRAVE CONCERN ON THE INCREASING PROTECTIONIST TRADE POLICIES OF CERTAIN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE ECONOMIES OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES". ASEAN MEMBERS, NOTABLY MALAYSIA AND THE PHILIPPINES, HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF AUSTRALIA'S IMPORT RESTRAINT ACTIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE APPLYING TO CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR AND UNCLASSIFIED

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TEXTILES. IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT MALAYSIA HAS THREATENED TO CUT OFF ITS IMPORTS OF AUSTRALIAN WHEAT, WORTH A\$37 MILLION LAST YEAR, AS PART OF A CAMPAIGN TO NARROW THE COUNTRY'S TRADE GAP WITH AUSTRALIA. THESE ANNOUNCEMENTS CAME ON THE EVE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR OVERSEAS TRADE, MR. ANTHONY'S VISIT TO THE PHILIPPINES, WHERE HE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE DISCUSSING THESE TRADE COMPLAINTS. PRIME MINISTER FRASER IS DUE TO HAVE TALKS WITH ASEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN AUGUST, AND ONE OF THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA FOR THESE TALKS IS REPORTED TO BE ASEAN COMPLAINTS ABOUT THEIR HEAVY TRADE DEFICIT WITH AUSTRALIA, WHCRD5#36 -55487753 59 5-48** , QUOTAS AND OTHER IMPORT RESTRAINTS. ALSTON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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